

Orders conceiued by the Lords of her Maiesties priuie Councill, and by her Higbnesse speciall direction, commanded to be put in execution for the restraint of killing and eating of flesh this next Lent, and to be executed aswell by the Lord Maior within the Citie and Suburbes of London, and by the Officers of the liberties and exempt places in and about the same, as by order to be prescribed by the Lords Lieutenants of all the Counties of the Realme to the Iustices of peace, Lords of Liberties, and Officers of corporate Townes.

*In the xxxvij. yeere of the Queenes Maiesties reigne.*



First her Maiesties pleasure is, vpon her vnderstanding of the great disorders heretofore and especially the last Lent committed in killing and eating flesh in the time of Lent, especially in the Citie of London, and the liberties thereto adioining, that the statute made in the first yere of her Maiesties reigne, for the restraint thereof, be put in due execution by the way of inquisition, and charge of Iuries, and by any other good meanes, both within the Citie and all other places requisite within the Realme.

And for the better knowledge of the trueth of these disorders, and redresse of the inconueniences, the sayd Iuries shall call befoze them, and send for any of the seruants of any Inholders, Victuallers, Taverners, and Keepers of ordinarie Tables, and such other that better victuals, to examine them vpon their corporall othes, what flesh shall bee, or is any day during the Lent season dressed, killed, bittered, or eaten in their houses: which if they shall refuse to doe, then they shall commit to prison the sayd seruants, so refusing vpon their othes to declare the trueth.

And because a great part of this disorder groweth by the Butchers of the Citie of London, and also of the Country, that secretly kill and bring flesh to the Citie: there shall be onely fixe Butchers licenced by the Lord Maior to kill flesh within the sayd Citie and liberties thereof, yeelding for the reliefe of maimed Souldiers and Mariners, such summes as shall bee limited for that purpose by order of the priuie Councell.

And euery of these Butchers to be so licenced, shall bee first bound in the summe of two hundred pounds to her Maiesties vse, and the bonds to be certified to the Queenes Remembrancer in the Exchequer, to sell no flesh in the time of Lent, but to such persons as shall shew them speciall warrant from the Lord Maior, vnder his hand, and that the Butchers doe truly keepe particular booke of their daily sales, and the names of those to whom they shal so sell, with the quantities and the times thereof.

That the L. Maior giue order to these Butchers, not to sel any flesh but at reasonable prices, and for that purpose the prices shal be set downe by the said L. Maior, such as may be reasonable both for the buier and seller: and if the Butcher shall breake that order, then to be forthwith discharged, and committed to prison, and another put into his place, and his bond to be certified into the Exchequer to the Queenes benefite.

That the Lord Maior himselfe shall grant no warrant for buying of flesh in Lent, but to such as shall haue and shew to him licence in good writing according to the lawes of the Realme to eat flesh, and the sayd licence to be viewed & registred, first by some two meete persons to be appointed for this purpose by the Lord Maior, and booke to be kept thereof, to be shewed further when the same shall be required, vnlesse it bee to Ambassadors and Agents of soveraine Princes, to whom notwithstanding no further quantitie shalbe allowed, then ratably for their owne household, and that such Ambassadors and Agents shal giue to the L. Maior a certificate weekly, what they shal require to be for their owne tables.

That the L. Maior shal now presently befoze Lent, cause al Inholders, Tablekeepers, victuallers, Alehousekeepers, and Taverners within the Citie and liberties thereof, to appeare befoze him, or such persons as he shall appoint meete for that purpose: and shal take bonds of euery of them in good summes of money, not vnder one hundred pound a piece to her Maiesties vse, not to selle any flesh in their houses this Lent time for any respect, except it be for some such person that lieth in their house, and that altho licence through sicknesse or other necessary cause, to eat flesh. Bonds shall be taken also of the Poulters, not to bitter any poultrie ware, but to such as shalbe like wise licenced to eat flesh, and that such as wil not giue such bonds, that they be secluded from all bitterance of victuall during the Lent season.

And for the Butchers and others that come with victuals of flesh out of the Countrey to the Citie, the L. Maior shal cause certaine persons, whereof some to be named to the L. Maior by the Wardens of the fishmongers, to watch at the gates & other like places in the Suburbes, where flesh may be brought in, to view and search, and to intercept the same. And in case the same shal be found to be brought to any person not warranted nor licenced to eat it, as is aforesaid, then the same to be forfeited and sold at the discretion of the L. Maior, for the vse of the poore in the Hospitals and prisons in the Citie, and the bringers to be imprisoned. And otherwise the Carriers of the said victuals of flesh to be guided to the persons houses that haue licence, with regard therein not to be abused. And this watch to be continued daily during the whole time of Lent: and if any of these watchmen be found negligent and corrupt in his charge, then he to be committed to prison, there to continue during the whole Lent.

And to the end the said Orders may be duly executed, it is thought conuenient, that the L. Maior should send for 4 chief Heads of the company of the fishmongers, and shall cause them to make choise of foure or moe wise and discrete persons of the sayd Company, and men of good wealth and habilitie, to whom they shall commit the charge to make enquirie after such as shall bee found transgressors of the said Orders: who in respect of their trauel bestowed in that behalfe, shal haue the one moitie of such bonds as shall be forfeited by transgressing of the said Orders, and the other moitie to be conuerted vnto godly vses, by the discretion of the Queenes Maiesties High Almoner, specially vpon poore and lame souldiers, with the priuie of some of the Priuie Councill.

And that there may be due execution of the said Orders, aswel without as within the Liberties of the Citie, it is thought conuenient, that they that haue the chiefe charge ouer the places priuiledged and exempt, where any Leets or Law daies are kept, shal authorize vnder their hand and seale foure persons as are aboue mentioned, to make search within the said priuiledged & exempt places for such as shal transgresse the said Orders, and shal for their trauell therein employed, receiue the moitie of the Bonds forfeited, as is aboue mentioned. And for the auoiding of corruption and partialitie in the sayde persons, it shall bee necessary to take their othes, and giue bond in some good and large summes, to see (as much as in them lieth) a due obseruation of the said Orders.

And for that it is to be doubted, that the said fishmongers, vpon the obseruation of the said Orders, will take occasion thereby to enhance the prizes aswel of fresh as of Sea fish: It is thought meete, that the L. Maior shal take order with the said fishmongers, that aswell the Salt as fresh fish shalbe vttered at reasonable prizes.

And it is ordered, that no Butchers shall kill any Beeres, but such as shall be specially licenced thereunto, without any fraud, by the furnishing of such ships as shall be lawfully employed by Sea, either in the way of traffique, or otherwise. And that such Butchers as shalbe licenced within the Liberties by the head officers of the Liberties to kill any flesh, shal euery foureteene dayes at the least, giue a true certificat vnto the Lord Maior and head officers of the places exempt, of such numbers of weales, Lambes and Buttons, as shalbe by them weekly killed: to the end, there may be a true certificat made euery fiftene dayes vnto the Lords and others of her Maiesties Priuie Councell, what numbers of the seuerall kindes aboue mentioned shalbe killed, either within the Citie, or places exempt.

Lastly, where any Butchers shalbe licenced in any exempt place without the Citie of London & the Liberties thereof, befoze the said Butchers shalbe suffered to kill or sell any flesh, they shall make payment to the hands of the Officers that shall giue them licence, for the reliefe of maimed Souldiers, Mariners, and other lame and impotent persons such summes of money as shalbe limited by letters, either of the Priuie Councell, or of the Lieutenants of the Shires.

And as these Orders are expressly deuised to be executed in the Citie of London, and places neere to the same, so her Maiesties pleasure and commandement is, that the execution of these or like Orders be performed by the commandement of her Maiesties Lieutenants to be sent to the Iustices of the Peace, in all Shires within their rule, and to all other officers in Townes corporat, or in any Liberties, with like order for bonds to be taken to her Maiesties vse: the benefite of the forfeiture of which bonds, her Maiestie may at the intercession of the said Lieutenants cause to be distributed amongst lame and poore souldiers.